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BACKSTOPPER FOR BRIEFINGS

13 February 1967

COMMUNIST AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

MILITARY: (in million \$)	1953-64	1965	1966	Total	Cum.
Soviet Union	70	225	175	470	
Comm. China	70	35	55	160	
East Europe	negl.	negl.	negl.	negl.	630
ECONOMIC:	1955-64	1965	1966	Total	
Soviet Union	365	85	150	600	
Comm. China	457	50	75	582	
East Europe	130	15	50	195	1,387
Cumulative Total, Mil. & Econ:					2,007

- I. North Vietnam over the past 15 years has received at least two billion dollars worth of military and economic aid from Communist countries.
- A. We know of \$470 million in military equipment from the Soviet Union, and an additional \$160 million from Communist China. Military aid from Eastern Europe has been negligible.
- B. The Soviet Union has provided ~~just over~~ \$600 million in economic aid, and the Chinese have almost matched this, with \$580 million. The East Europeans have added another \$195 million in economic aid.
- C. We estimate that total military aid in 1966 amounted to \$175 million from the Soviet Union, and \$55 million from China.

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II. North Vietnam produces virtually none of its military hardware. It is equipped with Soviet weapons, or Chinese copies of Soviet weapons.

A. The Soviets have the principal responsibility for supplying the more sophisticated weapons--the surface-to-air missile system and most of North Vietnam's aircraft and helicopters.

1. The Chinese supplied the first regiment of jet fighters sent to Hanoi when the bombardment of the North began. These were the older MIG-15s or 17s. Since then jet fighters have come from the Soviet Union, including super-sonic MIG-21s.
2. The Soviets have supplied about 65 older MIGs, and at least 34 MIG-21s--possibly more which are still in shipping crates.
3. The Soviets have supplied the bulk of the ^{6,500}~~5,000~~ anti-aircraft guns in North Vietnam.

B. Chinese military aid consists primarily of small arms and ammunition---along with some military manpower for logistics, construction, and engineering, and two to four anti-aircraft artillery divisions.

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1. Japan led with about 50,000 tons, more than one-third fertilizer. The rest was mainly metal products for construction, and miscellaneous manufactured goods.
 2. Cambodian foodstuffs and French metal products, fertilizer, and spare parts for vehicles accounted for most of the remaining shipments of Free World origin.
- C. All of the 420,000 tons that came in by rail probably originated in Communist countries.
1. Soviet transshipments across China--about 60,000 tons last year--probably consisted almost entirely of military equipment.
 2. Chinese rail shipments of about 360,000 tons included large quantities of coal, as well as other economic aid and military shipments.
 3. For the past two years the Soviets have been flying in air cargo at a rate of about one transport aircraft every two weeks. These probably carry critical spare parts and other high-priority small items.

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